

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 NEA-06 DRC-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06

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R 171219Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3132

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4644

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH VOTE ON PLO RESOLUTION

REF: (A) USUN 4059; (B) STOCKHOLM 4467

1. GOS HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO EXPLAIN TO SWEDISH PUBLIC ITS FAVORABLE VOTE ON RESOLUTION INVITING PLO TO PARTICIPATE IN PLENARY DEBATE ON PALESTINE QUESTION (REF A). MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUED PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 14 ON VOTE, POINTING OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO AFRO-ASIAN AND COMMUNIST STATES, A NUMBER OF WESTERN EUROPEANS (INCLUDING FELLOW NORDICS NORWAY AND FINLAND) VOTED IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION. REASON FOR SWEDISH DECISION TO VOTE IN FAVOR, ACCORDING TO PRESS RELEASE, WAS BELIEF THAT ONLY WAY TO REACH A SOLUTION TO "IMMENSELY DIFFICULT" PALESTINE PROBLEM IS TO PERMIT ALL PARTIES TO DISPUTE TO BE HEARD. STATEMENT ADDED CAVEAT THAT SWEDISH VOTE DID NOT RPT NOT IMPLY THE TAKING OF A POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PALESTINE QUESTION OR ON WHETHER THE

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PLO HAS AN EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO REPRESENT THE PALESTINE PEOPLE.

IN ADDITION, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON TOLD A REPORTER FROM INDEPENDENT DAGENS NYHETER THAT GOS REGARDED VOTE ON PLO AS A "PROCEDURAL QUESTION" INVOLVING ONLY THE RIGHT OF AN INTERESTED PARTY TO SPEAK ON A TOPIC BEFORE THE UNGA. ANDERSSON ADDED THAT SWEDEN'S FAVORABLE VOTE DID NOT INVOLVE THE ASSUMPTION OF A POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PALESTINE QUESTION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SWEDISH VOTE WAS TAKEN ONLY AFTER "CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS...AND AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF HESITATION."

3. ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN MAF INFORMED EMBASSY AFTER VOTE THAT FINAL DECISION TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF PLO RESOLUTION WAS TAKEN BY MFA AND SWEDISH MISSION TO UN AT LAST MINUTE, AND AFTER CONSIDERABLE "AGONIZING" ON PART OF GOS.

4. COMMENT: AS FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON INFORMED ME EARLY THIS MONTH (REF B), GOS HAD BEEN UNCERTAIN RE ITS POSITION ON INVITATION TO PMO APPEAR BEFORSPLENARY SESSION. WHILE GOS REALIZED THAT INVITATION COULD ESTABLISH DAMAGING PRECEDENT FOR UN, KNOWLEDGE THAT SIZEABLE MAJORITY IN UNGA WOULD SUPPLORT PLO APPEARANCE CONVICTED SWEDES NOT TO ATTEMPT TO COUNTER TIDE. SWEDES (LIKE MANY OTHER NATIONS WHO VOTED IN FAVOR) CLEARLY DID NOT WISH TO RISK ANTAGONIZING OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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